

## **REMARKS**

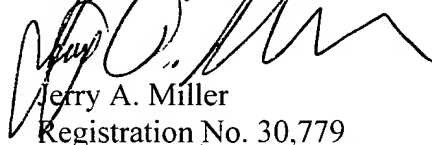
This application has been carefully reviewed in view of the above-referenced Office Action, and reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

All claims of the present application stand rejected based upon the Henzerling reference and the Hans reference of record. It is noted that the critical dates of these references are December 19, 2000 and February 27, 2001 respectively. The filing date of the present application is June 25, 2001; however, the date of invention is earlier. Applicants submit herewith a declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 establishing conception prior to both of the above critical dates, and further establishing diligence in both constructive and actual reduction to practice until the filing of the current patent application on June 25, 2001.

Hence, both the Henzerling reference and the Hans reference no longer qualify as prior art against the present application. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested at an early date.

The undersigned notes that many distinctions exist between the cited references and the invention as claimed. However, in view of the enclosed declarations, further discussion of these references is unnecessary. Thus, failure to address each point raised in the Office Action should not be viewed as accession to the Examiner's position. In view of this communication, all claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested at an early date. If further matters remain to be resolved, the undersigned respectfully requests the courtesy of an interview. The undersigned can be reached at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 2/28/2005

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Serial No.: 09/891,005